


H A M A S

O V E R V I E W	
Full Name	<i>Harakat Al-Muqawamat Al-Islamiyya</i> (The Islamic Resistance Movement; the acronym of the Arabic name means 'zeal' in English)
Place/Date of Creation	Gaza, 1987
Founders	Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Abdul Aziz Ar-Rantisi, Abdel Fattah Dukhan, Mohammed Shama', Dr. Ibrahim Al-Yazuri, Issa An-Najjar, Salah Shehadeh
Emblem/Flag	 <p>The official Hamas emblem shows two crossed swords in front of Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is framed by two Palestinian flags with the phrases (in Arabic) "God is Great" and "Mohammad is the Prophet of Allah"</p>
Headquarters	Gaza City, Gaza Strip
Leaders - Exile	Khaled Mashaal (former Chief of the Political Bureau – 2004-2017) Musa Abu Marzouq (Deputy Chief of the Political Bureau since 1997)
Leaders - Local	Ismail Haniyeh (elected Head of the Hamas politburo, May 2017) Yahya Sinwar (elected head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, May 2017; founder of Hamas' security apparatus)
Structure	Political Bureau, Shura Council, military wing, social welfare services
Main Document	Hamas Covenant of August 1988
Military Wing	Izz Ad-Din Al-Qassam Brigades (named after a pioneer <i>mujahid</i> who was killed in 1935 near Jenin)
Ideology	Militant, Islamic/Palestinian Nationalist; considers historic Palestine as Islamic trust land that can never be surrendered to non-Muslims
Vision	Establishment of a Palestinian state based on Sharia law over all of Mandatory Palestine.
Position on Oslo	Opposed
PLC Seats (2006)	74
Relation with the PLO	Not a member, but was invited to join during recent reconciliation talks
Websites	http://hamas.ps (official Hamas website) www.qassam.ps (Izz Ad-Din Al-Qassam Brigades)

Historical Figures/Founding Members:

							
Sheikh Ahmad Yassin	Abdul Fattah Dukhan	Mohammed Shama'	Dr. Ibrahim Al-Yazuri	Mohammed Najjar	Abdul Aziz Ar-Rantisi	Salah Shehadeh	Ismail Abu Shanab

Contemporary Figures:

								
Khaled Mashaal	Ismail Haniyeh	Yahya Sinwar	Mahmoud Zahar	Musa Abu Marzouq	Osama Hamdan	Sami Abu-Zuhri	Abdel Aziz Dweik	Said Siam